

5/1/01 Struck By Rotating Part

A 40-year-old, father of three, was killed when the chuck (which is a set of jaws with teeth that holds material on metal lathe) struck him. The victim was an experienced machinist, and had been working for the employer for approximately seven months. The Ameri-Tech Lathe he was operating was equipped with a lathe chuck shield that covers the rotating chuck, and the metal part, and is intended to keep the operator away from the rotating parts. The victim had moved the shield (chuck guard) to the upright position, exposing himself to the rotating chuck and part.

The chuck was rotating at 630 rpm. The teeth of the chuck caught the glove worn by the victim, and pulled him into the lathe. He was struck on the side of the head and fatally injured. The victim died three days later.

Question to ask?

- Does your company ensure that machine guards are in place, and that workers use them when operating or working around machines?

WAC 296-24-15001(3)(b) Requires that "the point of operation of machines whose operation exposes an employee to injury, shall be guarded."